



နယ်လှည့်ကျော့မိုးအိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးလုပ်သားအဖွဲ့  
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**ALERT: Flu Outbreak in Papun District, Karen State, Burma**

On September 11, 2009, flu occurred in one village and within a week, 7 villages were affected. Over 300 people have been sick, the symptoms are coughing, high fever, body pain, sore throat, running nose, headache, chest pain and diarrhea. Normally, during rainy season, flu is common, but this year the spread was very rapid and spread within a week. The villagers have never seen such a rapid outbreak. After 2 weeks, some people had recovered, and within another week several had become ill for the second time. On October 2nd, over 450 cases have been recorded (including the reinfected cases). The population of the affected area is 1476, and covers 7 villages. On the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 8 more cases were reported from a near by village outside of the main affected areas. Most of the cases are young people and school age children.

We are very concerned about this flu outbreak and are currently investigating the type of flu. Test kits have been provided by a local Thai hospital and sent to the affected areas, the results are expected within the first two weeks of October. We are concerned about the possibility that this could be incidents of bird or swine flu, and hence are asking for urgent cooperation.

The Back Pack Health Worker Team, mobile health clinics in Papun area, and Pha Hite Clinic have organized a task force to respond effectively and immediately to this outbreak. The strategies undertaken include:

- Health Campaign
- Surveillance System
- Investigation
- Treatment and care

5 schools in the area were closed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and to be closed for 2 weeks. The student population of these schools is around 350 students.

In order to prevent further spread, the organizations and villagers need more support for campaign materials and the surveillance system. We also need cooperation from government and public health bodies to effectively collaborate on cross border strategies for responding to infectious disease outbreaks such as this.